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Order from

Presbyterian Committee of Publication

Richmond, Va., Texarkana, Ark.-Texas

effected at this price we will be able to return the \$10,000 invested in the Home and School by the Female Orphans' Asylum of Fredericksburg, and turn into the work of Ministerial Relief \$2,707.74 to be used in assisting the dependent families of our deceased ministers and missionaries.

Because three homes of Christian refinement were open to the children of our deceased ministers and missionaries, where they would be welcomed into the affection and the wealth and the property of bereaved parents, the committee has made a diligent search to find boys and girls of our ministers' and missionaries' families who were without suitable homes. Our efforts have been in vain. This seems to be further evidence that the Church was not justified in the large expenditure of funds needed to conduct a home and school for this restricted class of youth.

We would also record the fact that while we were disposing of the property at Fredericksburg the Southern Baptist church was disposing of its holdings that were being used in a work very similar to that of the Home and School.

Complying with the directions of the General Assembly we have now closed the accounts formerly carried under the head of The Assembly's Home and School, and all of the widows and orphans who were the beneficiaries of that fund are now being cared for from the funds of Ministerial Relief.

V. Schools and Colleges.

Your committee desires to report that they have done everything in their power within the past year to carry out the complete program which was suggested to the last General Assembly, and received such cordial endorsement.

We are still of the opinion that no subject before the American people today is of more vital importance than that of Christian education. It is fundamental to the growth and progress of the Church of Christ, and to the peace and prosperity of the world.

We earnestly hope that the General Assembly this year will make a loud call to individuals to provide your committee with a larger amount of funds for the prosecution of this work.

During the past year we have sent out thousands of pages of literature, have secured well prepared articles for the Church papers and the Missionary Survey, and for many weeks have run full page advertisements in the Christian Observer, The Presbyterian of the South, The Presbyterian Standard and The Presbyterian Journal.

We have frequently called upon the members of the Advisory Committee on Education, who have been nominated by the Synods and elected by the General Assembly to consult with us concerning our system of education, for advice and assistance.

We have learned from these men and from the official records of the Synods that our schools and colleges are facing the most serious crises of their existence. The time has come when all educational institutions are forced to conform to the recognized standards recommended by various agencies and generally accepted by

educators and all parties interested in the work of education.

Many of the colleges of our Church that throughout the past have rendered signal service to the Church and State in training and developing men for high spiritual leadership, are now in imminent peril. Their professors must have larger salaries, their buildings and equipment must be enlarged, endowment funds must be created to meet the ever increasing cost of the work of education.

Dr. J. Campbell White, formerly a missionary to India, later the organizer and director of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, and now president of the College of Wooster, declares that he has taken up the work of Christian education because he believes he can best serve the interest of God's kingdom there. He says:

"We are willing to rest our whole cause on the vital contribution which the college has made and promises to make to the expansion of the kingdom of Christ.

"If by investing in colleges that are frankly and positively and completely Christian, the Church can produce competent leaders in adequate numbers, it is doubtful whether human ingenuity has ever devised a more successful method of influencing and controlling the thought and life of the world."

The Church cannot afford to neglect these training grounds that are sending forth from 85 to 90 per cent. of her leadership. We dare not turn over wholly to those over whom we have no control the training of our sons and daughters at the formative period of their lives, as they begin in the college for the first time, the study of many of the subjects that so profoundly affect their faith and character.

The Importance and Urgency Emphasized.

Your committee is fully convinced that few matters are of more importance right now than careful and prayerful planning of the educational work to which our Church is committed.

All of the great denominations of the United States have been brought face to face with the fact that they must rise and build or in the near future they will be compelled to surrender many of their institutions that have been bought even at the cost of the life's blood of the faithful fathers in the past.

During this year, the four hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, which commemorates the nailing of the ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle church at Wittenberg by Martin Luther, and which was marked by the elevation of the Bible as the infallible rule of faith and practice and by the great educational work of Martin Luther, John Knox, John Calvin and the other leaders associated with them the Protestant denominations are making strenuous efforts to more firmly establish their schools and colleges and especially to endow the chair of Bible in each college.

The following amounts are now being sought for Christian Education through well directed campaigns by the various churches: Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.), \$36,000,000; Methodist Episcopal Church (North), \$30,000,000, of which \$16,000,000 has already been secured; the Baptist Church (South), \$10,000,000; the Disciples of Christ, \$3,500,000, a large part of which has already been secured; the Baptist Church (North), \$6,000,000; United Presbyterian, \$1,450,000; the Reformed Church of America, \$1,250,000, and the Presbyterian Church (U. S.), in the various Synodical campaigns that are now being waged, is trying to raise between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000, all of which is greatly needed. Almost all of these amounts are being sought for the strengthening and developing of the Christian college.

Presbyterian Church Workers in State Schools.

The Executive Committee is making arrangements for a more systematic visitation of all the State universities next year than it has ever attempted before.

In conference with the other denominations who are interested in this problem, and in the light of past experience, it has been decided that the ideal form of service that can be rendered by the students in these institutions by the Church is the placing of a gifted pastor and the proper equipment of a local church. In this way the Christian life of the student may be more completely developed and as he leaves the institution there

will not be such a chasm to bridge between the later life of the student and the activities of the Church.

Every sixth or eighth boy and girl in the State institutions of higher learning comes from a Presbyterian home.

VI. The Student Loan Fund.

The total amount of the Student Loan Fund at present is \$24,349.50.

A total of 66 students received loans during the year, of whom 39 are boys and 27 girls. Sixty applications were declined on account of lack of funds.

The total number of students securing loans since the founding of the Loan Fund is 163; 95 of whom are boys and 68 girls.

Loans are made only to students in our own Presbyterian colleges. The maximum amount is \$100 a year for the four years of the college course. As soon as loans are repaid the amount is immediately loaned to another student of approved ability and character.

The Day of Prayer for Colleges.

The last General Assembly set the last Sunday in February and the preceding week as a day and week of prayer for schools and colleges and for the youth gathered within them.

This is a very appropriate season. It is the time, or near the time, that has been observed for seventy years by our Church. It is the universal day of prayer selected by the Christian Student organizations of the world. It is the season chosen by the majority of the denominations of our land.

In view of the peril of our schools and colleges in the face of such tremendous financial need; of the students of our land in the midst of so much rationalism and materialism; and of the students of the world in these strenuous days of unrest and cruel war, we suggest that the same season be designated for 1918 and that added emphasis be given to it. The day will be February 23, 1918, and the preceding week, beginning February 18th.

Needs of the Executive Committee.

The needs of the Executive Committee for its work for a year hence are: Education for the Ministry and Ministerial Service, \$60,000; Ministerial Relief, \$80,000; Schools and Colleges, not less than \$15,000; the Student Loan Fund, \$20,000. This makes a total of \$175,000.

There is urgent need also that the Endowment Fund be increased as speedily as possible to at least one million dollars, the mark now set by the General Assembly.

For the first time in the history of our committee's work we closed the year with an overdraft. This amounts to about \$12,980.13. This was caused by the failure to carry over from last

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Session begins September 12, 1917.

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year a balance as usual for the first quarterly payments to beneficiaries, a large increase in the number of our rolls, and a falling off of \$4,717.15 in gifts to the current funds.

We are in need of a liberal response from the Church during this year.

Conclusion.

The Executive Committee of Christian Education and Ministerial Relief is now constituted as follows: James Quarles, Esq., C. F. Huhlein, Esq., John Stites, Esq., Rev. W. Y. Davis, Rev. J. M. Vander Meulen, D. D., Bennett H. Young, Esq., W. J. Rubel, Esq., Wade Sheltman, Esq., G. H. Mourning, Esq., Rev. T. M. Hawes, D. D., Dr. A. J. A. Alexander, Rev. John T. Thomas, D. D., Brainard Lemon, Esq.

All of which is respectfully submitted by order of the Executive Committee.

Henry H. Sweets,
Executive Secretary.

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By nature's laws to man belong.

The lesson she would teach is clear—

Repeat but half of what you hear.

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